



**WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

**MAC WARNER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

**eFILED**

5/12/2022 11:31:31 AM

Office of West Virginia  
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

AGENCY: Secondary School Activities Commission

TITLE-SERIES: 127-03

RULE TYPE: Legislative Exempt      Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes      Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: Provisions Governing Contests

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451, 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988); and, W. Va. Bd. of Educ. v. Bd. of Educ., 239 W. Va. 705, 806 S.E. 2d 136 (2017)

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 06/13/2022 4:00 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Bernie Dolan, Executive Director

ADDRESS: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission  
2875 Staunton Turnpike, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

EMAIL: bernie.dolan@wvssac.org

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

Series 3 governs the conduct of athletic contests.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

A number of amendments are proposed to Series 3 to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends, and issues in the band and athletic programs.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

There will be no economic impact on revenues of state government as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR3, Series 3.

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

There will be no economic impact on special revenue accounts as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR3, Series 3.

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

There will be no economic impact on the state or its residents as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR3, Series 3.

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2022 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2023 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
<b>1. Estimated Total Cost</b>	0	0	0
<b>Personal Services</b>	0	0	0
<b>Current Expenses</b>	0	0	0
<b>Repairs and Alterations</b>	0	0	0
<b>Assets</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0
<b>2. Estimated Total Revenues</b>	0	0	0

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

There will be no economic impact on revenues of state government, special revenue accounts, or the state or its residents as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR3, Series 3.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Michele L Blatt -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Series 1, Constitution**  
**Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility**  
**Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests**  
**Series 5, Band and Other Activities**  
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)  
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

**BACKGROUND**

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the WVSSAC. Each year, the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) for its review and approval.

**PURPOSE**

These amendments are brought forth to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs.

These proposals will be submitted to the WVBE for consideration for placement on public comment at the May meeting. The WVSSAC will present comments received during the comment period to the WVBE at the July meeting and recommendation adoption of the rules.

The WVSSAC staff, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Board of Control respectfully request that the proposed rule changes to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Rules and Regulations Handbook be placed on public comment.

**CONTENT**

Thirty four proposals were submitted by member schools for consideration; twenty nine proposals were approved. Following is a brief description of the proposal and outcome of the vote.

1. Funds 127-1-9 (Vote: Yes-138 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
2. Enrollment and Team Membership 127-2-3.2.c (Vote: Yes-127 No-6 Proposal PASSED)
3. Age 127-2-4 (Vote: Yes-132 No-10 Proposal PASSED)
4. Semester and Season 127-2-5.2 (Vote: Yes-137 No-5 Proposal PASSED)
5. Residence Transfer 127-2-7.1.j (Vote: Yes-136 No-6 Proposal PASSED)
6. Residence Transfer 127-2-7.2.d (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
7. Residence Transfer 127-2-7.2.f (Vote: Yes-13 No-129 Proposal FAILED)
8. Non-school Participation 127-2-10.1 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 PASSED)
9. Non-school Participation 127-2-10.2 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
10. Non-school Participation 127-2-10.3 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
11. Practice 127-2-13.8 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
12. All-star Participation 127-3-4.1 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
13. Out-of-season Coaching 127-3-7.2 (Vote: Yes-75 No-67 Proposal PASSED)
14. Classification 127-3-10.6 (Vote: Yes-5 No-137 Proposal FAILED)
15. Classification 127-3-10.1 (Vote: Yes-7 No-135 Proposal FAILED)
16. Classification 127-3-10.12 (Vote: Yes-129 No-13 Proposal PASSED)

17. Sunday Contests 127-3-14.1 (Vote: Yes-6 No-136 Proposal FAILED)
18. Sanctioning and Travel 127-3-16.4.a (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
19. Sanctioning and Travel 127-3-16.5 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
20. Season Regulations 127-3-19 through 31(Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
21. Basketball (Boys and Girls) 127-3-20.4.b (Vote: Yes-111 No-31 Proposal PASSED)
22. Basketball (Boys and Girls) 127-3-20.4.a (Vote: Yes-114 No-28 Proposal PASSED)
23. Football 127-3-23.8 (Vote: Yes-7 No-135 Proposal FAILED)
24. Football 127-3-23.9.b (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
25. Football 127-3-23.9.g (Vote: Yes-136 No-6 Proposal PASSED)
26. Volleyball 127-3-30.10.b (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
27. Enrollment and Team Membership 127-2-3.11 (Vote: Yes-137 No-5 Proposal PASSED)
28. Coaches 127-3-6.4 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
29. Practice 127-2-13 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
30. Concussions 127-2-14 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
31. Classifications 127-3-10 (Vote: Yes-141 No-1 Proposal PASSED)
32. Sports Rules-Game Protests 127-3-15 (Vote: Yes-142 No-0 Proposal PASSED)
33. Soccer 127-3-25 (Vote: Yes-140 No-2 Proposal PASSED)
34. Robotics 127-5-8 (Vote: Yes-141 No-1 Proposal PASSED)

## IMPACT

### Instruction

None

### Leadership

None

### Financial

None

### Administrative

None

**ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS, PRINCIPALS, AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS WILL NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER THEIR SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT RULES. THERE IS NO MAJOR CHANGE THAT WOULD IMPACT ADMINISTRATION NEGATIVELY.**

**WVSSAC  
Rules and Regulations Handbook  
2021-22 Proposed Rule Changes**

**Proposal 1**

*Vote: 133-0 Passed*

**Amend §127-1-9. Funds. (pg. 7-8) as follows:**

~~9.1. The annual dues for members of this Commission shall be based upon the student enrollment of the school they represent.~~

~~9.1.a. A \$30.00 flat membership fee for all three- and four-year schools on the first 100 students, or fraction thereof, enrolled in a school.~~

~~9.1.b. After the first 100 students enrolled, the membership will be \$10.00 per 100 additional students, or fraction thereof, up to 1,000 students.~~

~~9.1.c. For each 100 students above 1,000 an additional \$5.00 per 100 students, or fraction thereof, is to be added.~~

~~9.1.d. A combined middle/high school shall pay a flat fee of \$30.00 for grades 7 and 8, and \$10.00 per 100, or fraction thereof, for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 up to 1,000 students and \$5.00 per 100, or fraction thereof, above 1,000 students.~~

~~9.1.e. A \$30.00 fee is the ceiling for all middle schools/schools without grades 9-12.~~

~~9.1.f. Dues for the year are payable on or before February 1 of each year. Membership in the Commission shall extend from July 1 to June 30 in any year and shall be lapsed if dues are not paid on or before February 15. The enrollment figure to be used to determine the amount of dues shall be the gross enrollment of all students at the close of the second month of the current school year. In case a membership has lapsed, the member school may not be reinstated until the dues for the year of such lapsed membership, plus a penalty of \$25.00 reinstatement fee, have been paid to the Commission.~~

9.2. The Board of Directors may ~~reduce~~ initiate the amount of annual dues of the members for any year.

9.3. The Board of Directors is authorized to levy entry fees and assessments for the conducting of any interscholastic athletic or band activity when the activity is not self-supporting. Fees and assessments from one activity division shall not be used for the support of another.

9.4. The Commission shall determine the expenditures of money, but superseding power is given to the Board of Directors to use funds as are necessary to carry on its work.

9.5. The fiscal year of this Commission extends from July 1 to June 30. All monies ~~paid as dues to the Commission, as well as all monies~~ derived from any contest or other event sponsored by the Commission ~~become quasi-public funds and as such~~ shall be subject to an annual audit by the West Virginia Tax Commissioner. A written summary of the audit shall be a part of the annual report of the Executive Director to the Board of Control.

9.6. In case of dissolution of the WVSSAC, all funds of the Commission shall be prorated equally and distributed to the County Boards of Education or governing bodies of the members of the Commission. Provided, however, that governing boards of those schools that become members of the Commission subsequent to January 1, 1968, shall be entitled to a prorated share of only that portion of the Commission's fund which has been collected, earned, and accumulated between the inception of such membership and the actual dissolution of the Commission.

Alicia Riggleman  
Musselman High School

**Rationale:**

Over the past several years, the yearly fees due by WVSSAC constitution have been waived. The Commission believes now is a time to eliminate the dues, but will maintain the authority to reinstate the fees if the need should arise.

**Proposal 2**

*Vote: 127-0 Passed*

**Amend §127-2-3.2.c Enrollment and Team Membership. (Pg. 16-17) as follows:**

3.2.c. Member schools containing grades 6 and/or 7 and/or 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the county or regional area to form one interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same private/parochial or public school system must be submitted annually to the WVSSAC in writing by the superintendent of the private/parochial or public school system. Schools which are combining to form one team must be feeder schools for the same high school, and at least one school must have sufficient numbers for a team. If more than two schools are involved, principals are to evaluate the number of available participants in each school and shall combine schools to provide as many teams as sufficient

numbers allow. Sufficient numbers will be defined as the number of a starting line-up plus 50% (for odd number line-ups, round up).

Kimberly Collins-Blair  
Harts PK-8

### **Rationale**

In 2006, Lincoln County High was built. Two years later, Chapmanville Regional High School was built and given the title "regional" to include students from the Harts area. There was a verbal agreement made then that when Harts students did not have enough student athletes to participate in a sport they would be afforded the opportunity to participate at Chapmanville Middle School (in Logan County) or Guyan Valley Middle School (in Lincoln County). However, this situation was never a problem until the current school year and Harts PK-8 students were not granted the right to participate at CMS. Harts PK-8 is a unique situation. We are on the only area that has a regional high school built for their students across county lines. Harts PK-8 is a feeder school for both LCHS and CRHS. This would not impact other schools and cause an issues because of the rule stating "feeder school". Harts is a high poverty area and transportation is also an issue, geography is the explanation for the choice of Chapmanville for most parents as it is only 10 miles from Harts PK-8.

### **Proposal 3**

Vote: 122-10

#### **Amend §127-2-4 Age. (Pg. 18) as follows:**

- 4.1. A student in high school who becomes 19 before ~~August 1~~ July 1 and a student in middle school who becomes 16 before ~~August 1~~ July 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition.
- 4.2. A student in grade 8 or below who becomes 15 before ~~August 1~~ July 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition at that level.
- 4.3. A student in grade 8 or below who becomes 15 on or after ~~August 1~~ July 1 shall remain eligible for the entire academic year at that level.

Mike Kelley  
Herbert Hoover High School

### **Rationale**

A change is necessary to SSAC policy 127-2-4. Age. Senate Bill 186 was into law by Governor Justice. This bill changed the age and month cutoff for students enrolling in Pre-k and Kindergarten. The previous law stated that all students seeking enrollment in Kindergarten must turn 5 years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they intend to enroll. SB 186 changed this cutoff date from September 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to give children more time to mature before entering formal public schooling. Current SSAC policy states that students must not turn 19 before August 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year in order to be eligible. This policy allowed any student to be retained once during their K-12 career and still retain eligibility. By sticking with the August 1<sup>st</sup> cutoff date, student-athletes born during the month of July who are retained in any one year during grades K-12 would turn 19 before August 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year. These July birthday student athletes should not be singled out and should be eligible to participate at the secondary level despite suffering through a retention. This proposed change will bring 127-2-4 of SSAC policy in line with SB 186.

### **Proposal 4**

Vote 137-8

#### **Amend §127-2-5.2 Semester and Season. (Pg. 18) as follows:**

- 5.2. ~~While in grades 6, 7, and 8, a student shall not participate in more than three seasons in any single interscholastic activity. A student may have the privilege to participate in the interscholastic program for three consecutive years (or six consecutive semesters or equivalent) after entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.~~

Jason Marling  
Sherrard Middle School

### **Rationale**

This rule will prevent middle school students from having a "red shirt" year prior to entering high school. Some middle school students are choosing to repeat a grade in middle school in an attempt to gain an athletic advantage. This rule will prohibit students from being able to do this. Once a student enters the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he/she will have three consecutive years to participate before moving on to high school.

**Proposal 5**

*No Vote because Proposal 4 passed.*

**Amend §127-2-5 Semester and Season. (Pg. 18) as follows:**

5.2. While in grades 6, 7, and 8, a student shall not participate in more than three seasons in any single interscholastic activity, and may only participate in a total of six consecutive semesters once that student enters grade 6.

Alicia Riggelman  
Musselman High School

**Rationale**

The rule change is intended to establish limitations for total semesters of participation, rather than just the current seasonal limitations.

**Proposal 6**

*Vote: 138 - 8 Passed*

**Amend §127-2-7.1.j Residence Transfer. (Pg. 21) as follows:**

7.1.j Any international student enrolling in a member school who does not meet the criteria of 127-2-7.1h shall only be eligible to participate at the junior varsity level in any sport for the duration of the time the student is enrolled.

Steve Wamsley  
Tygarts Valley High School

**Rationale**

This rule clarifies the eligibility status of international students who do not enroll as part of an approved foreign exchange program. This rule will stop schools from recruiting international students to their schools for athletic purposes. Will align with the work that has been done to establish competitive balance among schools.

**Proposal 7**

*Vote 142-0 Passed*

**Amend §127-2-7.2.d Residence Transfer. (Pg. 21) as follows:**

7.2.d. For the purpose of athletic eligibility, the Commission does not recognize emancipated minor status as it relates to transfer, ~~except as might occur in marriage and relocation to another school zone.~~

Meredith Dailer  
Wheeling Park High School

**Rationale**

Marriage should not be an automatic exception. May be other factors to consider. If there are exceptions to be made to this rule, (including marriage) student athlete should be required to file an appeal with the Board of Directors.

**Proposal 8**

*Vote: 13-120 Rejected*

**Amend §127-2-7.2.f Residence Transfer. (Pg. 22) as follows:**

7.2.f. If a student enrolls who has been released and accepted by formal actions of county boards of education or similar governing bodies of a private/parochial school which have verified that such transfer is not for athletic purposes, the student will be granted immediate eligibility provided all other rules are met. The enrollment transfer may only occur once during the students four years of high school (9-12) eligibility must occur at the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic year with the student enrolled on or before the eleventh instructional day of the beginning of the academic year and provided that the student is residing with the parents. With respect to a student whose parents reside in an attendance zone containing more than one member school, at the time of enrollment in an out of district school at the beginning of the student's 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic year, the student must identify a "home" school. In the event the student later elects to utilize "transfer back" (§127-2-7.2.g), the student is only eligible to



transfer back to the identified "home" school. Once a student has been a member of a team that has participated in a scrimmage or contest, the student has established eligibility at that school. (Revised 2012-13, 2017-18)

Jason Redman  
Nitro High School

### **Rationale**

Currently, parents are forced to make their school choice before having experienced what their home high school has to offer. This change will allow parents to make an informed decision based on their child's experience. Oftentimes schools get an unjust negative reputation from outsiders that influence that parents' school decision.

### **Proposal 9**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-2-10.1 Non-school Participation. (Pg. 24) as follows:**

10.1. During ~~the academic year~~ a WVSSAC established sport season and while a member of a school team, a student shall neither participate, which includes, but is not limited to, fund-raising activities, team picture, tryouts, etc., on any formally organized non-school team in the same sport, nor shall the student compete as an individual unattached in non-school formally organized competition in the same sport. The following sports are exempted from the provisions of this rule: cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, and wrestling, provided that: (Revised 2011-12)

Shawn Wheeler  
Buffalo High School

### **Rationale**

Clarifies when a student athlete is prohibited from participating on a non-school team. The new language makes it very clear when the student is prohibited from participating in both school and non-school teams. With this change, once the season begins as defined by the WVSSAC standardized calendar, students may not be a part of the non-school team under any condition, as outlined in the rule. Will bring consistency for all schools.

### **Proposal 10**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-2-10.3 Non-school Participation. (Pg. 24) as follows:**

10.2.e The USA Swimming Junior National Championship

Paul Mihalko  
Morgantown High School

### **Rationale**

This is a prestigious national championship level event. Qualifiers advance to the national championship. Very few swimmers in WV will even qualify. May impact one or two swimmers every few years. However, if there is a swimmer who does qualify, he/she should be allowed to participate without penalty.

### **Proposal 11**

Vote 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-2-10.3 Non-school Participation. (Pg. 24) as follows:**

10.3. A student who has participated on a non-school team or as an individual unattached in non-school formally organized competition after the ~~beginning practice date of that sport~~ WVSSAC established start date of that sport season will be ineligible for participation on that school team for that season in that particular sport except as provided by §127210.1 and §127-2-10.2.

Shawn Wheeler  
Buffalo High School

### **Rationale**

Clarifies when a student athlete is prohibited from participating on a non-school team. With the change, once the season begins as defined by the WVSSAC standardized calendar start date of the season, students may not be a part of the non-school team under any conditions, as outlined in the rule. Will bring consistency for all schools.

**Proposal 12**

Vote 142-0 Passed

**Amend §127-2-13.8 Practice. (Pg. 26) as follows:**

13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete five separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale**

Editorial change to align with rule change from 2020-21.

**Proposal 13**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

**Amend §127-3-4.1 All-star Participation. (Pg. 37) as follows:**

4.1. Only a graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current academic year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility, may play in ~~one~~ two All-Star games upon conclusion of each season without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of that year. (Revised 2019-20)

Kenny Demoss  
Parkersburg High School

**Rationale**

More conferences and organizations are hosting all-star events for student athletes that before. Student athletes should not be penalized or have to choose only one if they are invited to two separate events.

**Proposal 14**

Vote 75-67 Passed

**Amend §127-3-7.2 Out-of-season Coaching. (Pg. 39) as follows:**

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall be permitted with principal approval during three consecutive weeks established by each school and approved by each county board of education or by the governing body of a private/parochial school. These three consecutive weeks may begin on or after Monday of Week 49, and must conclude by Friday of Week 4 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar; provided, there will be no out-of-season practice or related activities during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> as determined by the NFHS Standardized Calendar (refer to handbook appendix). Participation must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks does not meet §127-2-13.4.

Cassie Porter  
John Marshall High School

**Rationale**

School districts with more than one high school or middle school can sometimes conflict with each other. In some districts, community events might be more of a factor than other parts of the same district. In our district, our smaller rural high school has a big presence on our county fair and they do not want to conflict with the operation of an important part of the fair.

**Proposal 15**

Vote 6-137 Rejected

**Amend §127-3-10.6 Classification. (Pg. 44) as follows:**

Each member high school shall be classified in ~~boys and girls basketball all sports~~ as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on a total score given by the classification model that considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. For an explanation of the classification model and how scores are assigned, see Glossary.

### Rationale

This will be a more competitive balance formula. This will give 8 more schools that opportunity to be sectional champions and give 8 more schools the experience of competing at States. It will give the host city more revenue from hosting games. Sports are all about the student athlete and this will provide more student athletes with positive lifelong memories.

### Proposal 16

Vote: 7-135 Rejected

#### Amend §127-3-10.1 Classification. (Pg. 43) as follows:

10.1. Excluding Boys basketball, girls basketball, and football, each member high school shall be classified as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification. (Revised 2011-12; 2018-19)

Liberty Raleigh High School

### Rationale

To achieve a more competitive balance for West Virginia schools in football. Each high school athlete in the state has the opportunity to compete in postseason play except football. Expanding to four classifications would allow sixteen more football teams, cheer squads, bands, and communities to participate in and enjoy the playoff experience. Also, the financial stimulus to the team, school, and community could cause a radical shift in the athletic competitiveness of your schools' teams'.

<u>Bordering State</u>	<u># of teams in playoff</u>
Pennsylvania	323
Ohio	224
Maryland	182
Virginia	188
Kentucky	188
West Virginia	48

### Proposal 17

Vote: 128-13 Passed

#### Amend §127-3-10.12 Classification. (Pg. 43) as follows:

10.12 The WVSSAC Board of Directors is authorized to grant a waiver to a classification assignment when it determines the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended.

Dottie Smith and Eric Cheeseman  
Wirt County High School

### Rationale

An appeals process would allow for an opportunity for all schools to have a chance at competitive balance. For example, several member schools may have very high poverty rates, very low enrollment, but be located within their county seat. In this instance, the location to their county seat would be the main reason a school is in a higher classification. Having an appeals process would allow the WVSSAC Directors to grant waivers or exceptions for schools in similar situations.

### Proposal 18

Vote: 6-138 Rejected

#### Amend §127-3-14.1 Sunday Contests. (Pg. 46) which also effects rule 127-2-13.3 (Pg. 25) as follows:

127-3-14.1.a Sunday Practice-Teams may conduct a practice on Sunday between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm provided that there is a game scheduled on the following Monday, the practice length does not exceed two hours, it is not the seventh consecutive practice/game.

Mike Kelley  
Herbert Hoover High School

### Rationale

Oftentimes coaches are hesitant to schedule Monday games due to the fact that they do not have practice the day before. Limiting the number of consecutive practice/game will guarantee that student athletes have a day off.

### Proposal 19

Vote 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-3-16.4.a Sanctioning and Travel. (Pg. 47) as follows:**

16.4. Bordering state events requiring approval are:

16.4.a. Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate (All schools from ~~neighboring~~ bordering states.) and at least one of the states participating requires sanctioning.

Tom Adkins  
Princeton High School

### Rationale

This rule will enable WVSSAC member schools to be able to compete against bordering state schools that require sanctioning. Currently, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania require sanctioning. This rule will allow our member schools to continue to compete against schools in those states.

### Proposal 20

Vote 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-3-16.5 Sanctioning and Travel. (Pg. 47) as follows:**

~~16.5. Intrastate events requiring approval are:~~

~~16.5.a. An event with more than four schools participating; or~~

~~16.5.b. Any event where awards are given.~~

Tom Adkins  
Princeton High School

### Rationale

WVSSAC Rule 127-3-12 (Legal Opponents) clearly defines a legal opponent for member schools. This sanctioning rule creates unnecessary paperwork for school administrators as well as WVSSAC office staff. As long as schools follow 127-3-12 (Legal Opponents), there is no need for this rule.

### Proposal 21

Vote 142-0 Passed

#### **Amend §127-3-18 through 31 Season Regulations. (Pg. 48-59) as follows:**

§127-3-19. Baseball.

19.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

§127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls).

20.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

#### **§127-3-21. Cheerleading.**

21.4. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

#### **§127-3-22. Cross Country (Boys and Girls).**

22.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

#### **§127-3-23. Football.**

23.2.b. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

#### **§127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls).**

25.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. ~~(Effective September 13, 2021)~~

**§127-3-26. Softball.**

26.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

**§127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls).**

27.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

**§127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls).**

28.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

**§127-3-29. Track and Field (Boys and Girls).**

29.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

**§127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls).**

30.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

**§127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys).**

31.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~44~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. (Effective September 13, 2021)

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale**

Need to change to 12 required practices in each specific sport rule to align with rule change made last year. This will also change in Secretary of State's copy.

**Proposal 22**

No Vote

**Amend §127-3-19.9.a Baseball. (Pg. 48) as follows:**

19.9.a. Middle school teams may play ~~48~~ 20 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

Brian Atkinson  
Logan Middle School

**Rationale**

High School baseball is allowed 32 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. In Middle school, we are currently only allowed 18 games including conference tournaments. That is a wide disparity in number of allowed contests that isn't seen in any other sport. We are asking to increase this amount of games to 20 in order to better prepare athletes for the endurance required to complete a High school season.

**Proposal 23**

No Vote

**Amend 127-3-26.9a Softball (Pg. 55) as follows:**

26.9.a Middle school teams may play ~~48~~ 20 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

**Rationale**

High School softball is allowed 32 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. In Middle school, we are currently only allowed 18 games including conference tournaments. That is a wide disparity in number of allowed contests that isn't seen in any other sport. We are asking to increase this amount of games to 20 in order to better prepare athletes for the endurance required to complete a high school season.

Brian Atkinson  
Logan Middle School

**Proposal 24**

Vote 111-31 Passed

**Amend §127-3-20.4.b Basketball (Boys and Girls). (Pg. 49) as follows:**

20.4.b. A student can play only ~~five~~ six quarters in one day.

Lori Barnhart  
St. Marys High School

**Rationale**

1. Many players, especially girls' programs in small schools do not have enough to play a junior varsity contest with only 5 quarters allowed. Several schools have canceled or limited junior varsity to 2 quarters.
2. Many high school players play travel type AAU ball that have them playing multiple games in one day. We believe last year players were allowed to play on high school and travel programs due to Covid-19 and no major injuries seemed to occur.
3. Administratively, many small schools financially lose out without extra parents from junior varsity support. Additionally, they incur the costs of officials the same whether they play a two quarter contest or a full game.
4. The participation and development, this extra quarter will allow, lets the more inexperienced players have a game to play in and remain interested. Thus, helping to prevent even further loss of numbers by inexperienced players leaving because they sit on the bench for all varsity games or get limited opportunities.

#### Proposal 25

Vote 114-28 Passed

#### Amend §127-3-20 Basketball (Boys and Girls). (Pg. 49) as follows:

20.4.a. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one season is ~~440~~ 132 exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

Lori Barnhart  
St. Marys High School

#### Rationale

1. This change would only be requested if 20.4.b is amended per our proposal, so that this reflects 22 contest dates with 6 quarters in a day.
2. Again, this is an effort to maintain participation in smaller schools that have reducing enrollment and may face eliminating junior varsity programs, otherwise.

#### Proposal 26

Vote: 7-136 Rejected

#### Amend §127-3-23.8 Football. (Pg. 51) as follows:

23.8. The Board of Directors ~~is authorized to~~ shall adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class that includes all member schools in the playoffs.

David Decker  
Lincoln High School

#### Rationale

Football is the only sport the WVSSAC restricts participation in the post season championships tournament. All schools should be able to have the opportunity to participate in the championship tournament.

#### Proposal 27

Vote: 142-0 Passed

#### Amend §127-3-23.9.b Football. (Pg. 52) as follows:

23.9.b. The following table establishes ~~the first date for organized practice, the first date pads with no live contact, the first date for live contact,~~ for middle school the equipment/contact level, earliest date for a scrimmage, the date for first game contest and the date season must be completed.

	<del>First Date</del>	<del>Pads No</del>	<del>Contact</del>		<del>Earliest</del>	<del>Date Season</del>
	<del>Organized</del>	<del>Live</del>	<del>Allowed</del>	<del>Date For</del>	<del>For First</del>	<del>Must Be</del>
Year	Practice	Contact	Full Equip.	Scrimmage	Game	Completed
2021	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 19	Aug. 23	Week 9	Oct. 30
2022	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 22	Week 9	Oct. 29
2023	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 17	Aug. 21	Week 9	Oct. 28
2024	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	Aug. 26	Week 9	Nov. 2
2025	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 21	Aug. 25	Week 9	Nov. 1

Year	First Date Organized Practice-Helmets Only No Contact	First Date Helmet & Shoulder Pads. Soft equipment contact-Bag, shields, sleds, tackling wheel, etc.	Full Pads Soft Equipment Contact-Bag, shields, sleds, tackling wheel, etc.	Full Pads Full Contact	Earliest Scrimmage	First Contest	Date Season must be completed
2022	Aug. 8,9,& 10	Aug. 11,12, & 13	Aug. 15 & 16	Aug. 17,18,19,& 20	Aug. 22	Aug. 29	Oct. 29
2023	Aug. 7,8,& 9	Aug. 10,11, & 12	Aug. 14 & 15	Aug. 16,17,18,& 19	Aug. 21	Aug. 28	Oct. 28
2024	Aug 12,13, & 14	Aug. 15, 16,& 17	Aug. 19 & 20	Aug. 21,22,23 & 24	Aug. 26	Sept. 2	Nov. 2
2025	Aug. 11,12,& 13	Aug. 14,15, & 16	Aug. 18 & 19	Aug. 20, 21,22 & 23	Aug. 25	Sept. 1	Nov. 1

Patrick McGregor  
Moorefield High School

### Rationale

The reason for this proposal is to prepare our athletes to be safer within the limitations of practice and within sport specific movements especially tackling. This process will still afford each program a smooth and safe transition through the beginning of the season practice days. The progression will give programs a chance to teach the basics of tackling and blocking while utilizing the abundance of drills that involve soft equipment. We also believe that this type of change will drastically decrease the number of infractions related to utilizing body to body contact, or the use of soft equipment too early in the acclimation period.

### Proposal 28

Vote: 138-6 Rejected

#### Amend §127-3-23.9.g Football. (Pg. 53) as follows:

23.9.g. Middle school football teams ~~may~~ shall play overtime periods in regular season games. ~~In season ending championship games, a tie breaking procedure shall be established and used if at the end of two overtime periods, the score remains tied. A maximum of two overtime periods~~ Overtime periods will be played until a winner is determined ~~are permitted~~ in accordance with the NFHS Football Rules "20 yard line overtime procedure."

Jeff Kisner  
Jackson Middle School

### Rationale

Eliminating the tie in regular season games allows better seeding in leagues at the middle school level. Ultimately, it eliminates the possibility of ending a championship game with a tie for the year. For example, in our league, if the #4 seeded team and the #1 seeded team play in the championship game and it would end in a tie. The #1 seed would win the league, even though the #4 seed played right with them the entire game.

### Proposal 29

Vote: 142-0 Passed

#### Amend §127-3-30.10.b Volleyball (Girls). (Pg. 58) as follows:

30.10.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 40 ~~9~~.

Constitution and Bylaws

### Rationale

This rule was changed last year, but the middle school week was not changed. Need to change to be consistent with rule change. Editorial change.

### Proposal 30

Vote 137-5 Passed

#### Amend 127-2-3.11 Enrollment and Team Membership (pg. 18) as follows:

3.11 ~~A~~ Homeschool students receiving home instruction pursuant to W.Va Code 18-8-1(c), shall be considered eligible for participating in interscholastic athletic events and other extracurricular activities of public secondary school serving the attendance zone in which the student lives or as allowed by 127-2-7.2.f and 127-2-7.2.h who (1) has been homeschooled for at least one year immediately preceding interscholastic athletic participation; (2) has demonstrated satisfactory evidence of academic progress for the immediately preceding academic year; (3) is enrolled in at least one virtual instructional course per semester, consistent with the applicable virtual instruction policy of the county board in which the home schooled student lives and the applicable virtual instruction policy of the State Board of Education; and (4) is otherwise eligible to participate as a result of being subject to all other eligibility rules applicable to a non- homeschooled student.

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:**

This provides homeschooled students the same opportunity as non-homeschooled students the ability to choose a one time out of district school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Proposal 31**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

**Amend 127-3-6.4.b and c. Coaches (P. 39) as follows:**

6.4.b The coach has successfully completed WVSSAC approved training: ~~NFHS~~ Sport Science, Sports First Aid, and the WV Component (14 hours of instruction and test) and has received WVDE authorization.

6.4.c ~~The authorized certified coach may be contracted to coach only if an employed certified professional educator within the county has not applied and accepted the coaching position.~~

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:**

Policy 5202 no longer requires a certified educator to have priority over an authorized certified coach. This change will align WVSSAC policy with WVDE policy.

**Proposal 32**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

**Amend Rule 127-2-13 Practice (P. 25) as follows:**

13.4.c ...must have the required 44-12 separate practice days...

13.7 If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 44-12 separate days of practice...

13.8 Students participating in a sport in one season must have practiced 44-12 separate days...

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:** Editorial changes to rule that was passed last year. Clean up of other rules to make consistent.

**Proposal 33**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

**Amend Rule 127-2-14 Concussions (P.27) as follows:**

14.5 Member schools must submit Part I of the concussion report form to the WVSSAC within 7 days and Part II within 30 days.

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:** Need to change language to be consistent with requirements for schools.

**Proposal 34**

Vote: 141-1 Passed



**Amend Rule 127-3-10 Classification (P.44) as follows:**

10.8 A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in one class above its classification in boys and girls basketball providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to April 1 of a new classification year. Approval of this option will be for a two year period ~~and will be in effect for individual sports by the school.~~

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:**

This rule only applies to boys and girls basketball, not other sports in the school. This is a clean- up of language/editorial change to the rule.

**Proposal 35**

Vote: 142-0 Passed

**Amend Rule 127-3-15 Sports Rules-Game Game Protests (P. 46) as follows:**

15.3 Contests ~~or ejections~~ shall not be protested. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not authorized to order contests replayed ~~or ejections reconsidered.~~

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:**

Old language that needs to be deleted. The Executive Director is authorized to reconsider ejections.

**Proposal 36**

Vote: 140-2 Passed

**Amend Rule 127-3-25 Soccer (P. 54) as follows:**

25.2 Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on ~~Friday~~ Wednesday of Week 7.

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:** This change was a unanimous recommendation from the Soccer Coach Committee. Allows more days to schedule games.

**Proposal 37**

Vote: 141-1 Passed

**Amend 127CSR5**

Constitution and Bylaws

**Rationale:**

Robotics has been approved by the WVSSAC Board of Directors as a sanctioned activity. Language needs to be added to provide consistency of application for all participating schools. Rules and regulations will be developed and available on the WVSSAC website.

**127CSR3**

**TITLE 127**

**LEGISLATIVE RULE**

**WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**

**SERIES 3**

**PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS**

**§127-3-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- These rules govern the conduct of athletic contests.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2; and W. Va. Code §§18-2-5, 18-2-25, 18-2-25a, and 18-2-25b.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~July 14, 2021.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~September 13, 2021.~~

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. -- This legislative rule amends W. Va. 127CSR3, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, filed ~~July 9, 2020~~ July 14, 2021, and effective ~~September 8, 2020~~ September 13, 2021.

**§127-3-2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal.**

2.1. The principal of each member school is recognized as the school representative and as such is accountable to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC/Commission) for conduct of the athletic programs of that school.

2.2. The principal or designee shall notify coaches and faculty (§127-3-6) of the rules and regulations of this Commission. It shall be that individual's responsibility to notify those students participating in WVSSAC activities. Failure of the principal in performing this responsibility will not prevent the Commission from enforcing its rules and regulations.

2.3. The principal shall have the authority to delegate responsibilities or duties; however, such delegation shall not relieve the principal of responsibility for any infraction of the rules and regulations of this Commission by coaches and faculty.

2.4. The principal has the authority to designate a member of the faculty who must supervise all interscholastic activities.

2.5. The principal is responsible for adequate team and crowd control measures at home contests in which the school participates, assuring that the school's participants and fans conduct themselves in a proper manner, and assuring that all fans and officials are provided adequate protection. In situations where contests are played on neutral sites, the responsibilities will be shared by participating school principals.

2.6. The principal has the right to exclude a contestant who would not represent the school in an

appropriate manner, a student who fails to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing, or a student who has been excluded for a serious illness or injury.

2.7. The principal will be responsible for signing all game contracts, seeking sanctioning of necessary events, and signing all certificates of eligibility prior to student participation.

2.8. The principal may designate the assistant principal or other faculty member to provide representation and/or to participate in all voting matters at a Board of Control meeting which is further explained in the Constitution.

2.9. The principal shall have such other powers as will encourage the growth, development and expansion of the athletic program for the welfare of the students, the school, and the WVSSAC.

2.10. The principal, assistant principal, and athletic director of each member school shall be admitted to any WVSSAC sanctioned event. Vocational principals and assistant principals shall also be admitted. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and a photo identification.

2.11. The principal and assistant principal of each member school, who upon retirement is a member in good standing with the WVSSAC, shall receive a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and photo identification. Spouses of deceased principals and assistant principals shall have a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card with the same admittance stipulations transferred to them upon request to the WVSSAC.

2.12. WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Cards shall be honored at all events involving WVSSAC member schools with the exception of state tournaments.

#### **§127-3-3. Physical Examination -- Parental Permission.**

3.1. The Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form allows for annual updates rather than a complete physical examination.

3.2. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice or participate in an interscholastic contest until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. This form must be signed by all parties: student, parent(s), physician. Consent and approval for sport(s) in which a student is requesting participation must be approved by both parent and physician.

3.3. A physical examination form must be completed no earlier than May 1 for an upcoming year. The physical is valid until completion of the last WVSSAC state tournament during the next academic year.

#### **§127-3-4. All-Star Participation.**

4.1. Only a graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current academic year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility, may play in ~~one~~ two All-Star games upon conclusion of each season without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of that year.

#### **§127-3-5. Awards.**

5.1. Only a member school or a school sponsoring a sanctioned event may give the following awards to a student or team: medal, trophy, cup, certificate, ribbon, plaque, unattached letter, unattached chevron, or any similar award.

5.2. A student may accept on an individual or team basis the above specified awards in the following situations:

5.2.a. from a member school for participation;

5.2.b. in a sanctioned event;

5.2.c. in a non-sanctioned event, at any time in the following sports: cheerleading, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, or wrestling;

5.2.d. in a non-sanctioned event, but not during the school sports season for the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, lacrosse, softball, or soccer.

5.3. A student may not receive the following awards with a retail value that exceeds \$100.00:

5.3.a. Apparel - sweaters, jackets, jerseys, shoes, etc.

5.3.b. Equipment - radio, televisions, etc.

5.3.c. Athletic goods - batons, tennis rackets, bats, golf bag, tennis or golf balls, etc.

5.3.d. Money (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are exempted.)

5.4. Purchase of an item as identified in §127-3-5.3, whereby any portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency, or any other group or organization, ~~is prohibited~~ cannot exceed the specified limit.

5.5. Nothing in §127-3-5 shall be interpreted to affect the recognition of scholarship or scholastic achievements.

#### **§127-3-6. Coaches.**

6.1. A member of a school faculty, substitute teacher, or student teacher, with West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Authorized Certification, shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. A member of a private/parochial school facility, substitute teacher, regardless of WVDE certification status, shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. An authorized certified individual may coach if they meet all of the requirements in §127-3-6.4.

6.2. A public school substitute teacher is defined as a person who has met the licensure requirements as specified by the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education. Private/parochial school substitutes must meet requirements of respective governing bodies.

6.3. A college student fulfilling teacher training responsibilities as a student teacher may be assigned certain coaching responsibilities during that period of training. This assignment will be administratively consistent with the student teacher's role in the classroom, and shall be approved by the county board of education or the governing body of a private/parochial school. The student teacher will work directly under the supervision of the appointed coach or assistant coach.

6.4. An authorized certified coach must meet the following requirements:

6.4.a. The coach is employed under a contract with a county board of education which specifies a rate of pay equivalent to the rate for professional educators who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments and which provides for liability insurance associated with the activity;

6.4.b. The coach has successfully completed WVSSAC-approved training: ~~NFHS~~ Sport Science, Sport First Aid, and WV Component (14 hours of instruction and test) and has received WVDE Authorization;

~~6.4.c. The authorized certified coach may be contracted to coach only if an employed certified professional educator within the county has not applied for and accepted the coaching position;~~

6.4.d. Coaching authorizations are for one year. They may be reissued upon request if a certified professional educator within a county is not available to fill the coaching position.

6.5. The head coach shall be required to attend any sports rules clinic in the coaching assignment which is sponsored by this Commission. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rules clinic.

6.6. All coaches, athletic directors, and band directors of member schools who, upon retirement from a full time teaching, school service, or administrative position at a member school, have at least 20 years of service as a coach, athletic director, band director, or combination thereof shall receive a lifetime WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card and photo identification. Spouses of deceased coaches, athletic directors, and band directors shall have a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card with the same admittance stipulations transferred to them upon request to the WVSSAC.

#### **§127-3-7. Out-of-Season Coaching.**

7.1. Philosophy -- A student should have the opportunity to engage voluntarily in school athletic activities provided that the student is eligible, that such activities do not interfere with the student's educational development and their activities do not conflict with the principles of wholesome amateur athletics. The WVSSAC discourages the exploitation of students by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student. Athletic participation should be used for the pleasure and satisfaction that is derived from athletic competition in a variety of experiences.

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall be permitted with principal approval during three consecutive weeks established by each school and approved by each county board of education or by the governing body of a private/parochial school. These three consecutive weeks may

begin on or after Monday of Week 49, and must conclude by Friday of Week 4 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar; provided, there will be no out-of-season practice or related activities during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> as determined by the NFHS Standardized Calendar (refer to handbook appendix). Participation must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks does not meet §127-2-13.4.

7.2.a. With principal approval, each sport program may use twelve “flex-days” from Monday of Week 49 through Friday of Week 48 of the next academic year. A flex-day is a day, outside the regular season and outside the three week practice window, when a coach may have sport-specific contact with student athletes. Flex-days shall not be used during the first week of each high or middle school sport season. Use of any part of a day for an activity will count as a full day of activity.

7.3. A coach or principal designee of each sport or activity may be present as an observer, lecture participant, staff member, [or in any capacity at any summer camp] during weeks established in §127-3-7.2 and §127-3-7.2.a.

7.4. A coach or designee shall not work with individuals in any form of drills or practice of the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except during those dates specified as the season for that specific sport or as designated in §§127-3-7.2, 127-3-7.2.a, and 127-3-7.3.

7.5. Coaches may participate in a formal development program of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) involving students of the same sport as their coaching assignments. The formal development program must be under the official guidance of the USOC through the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport. The NGB must assure in writing to the WVSSAC that coaches will receive formal orientation and that strict supervision and monitoring of coaches will ensure that no recruitment or inappropriate influence will be exerted on students.

7.6. Conditioning/Recreation Programs -- Throughout the academic year, students who are not participating in a school’s athletic program may voluntarily participate in an off-season conditioning program. This program also may occur during the summer, subject to county board of education or governing body approval and the following provisions:

7.6.a. Participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in the school providing the program.

7.6.b. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.6.c. Students will provide their own clothing (sweatsuit, shoes, etc.).

7.6.d. Activities will be limited to running, weight training, and stretching exercises. Agility drills that do not involve specific skills of a given sport are permitted.

7.6.e. Specific equipment pertaining to a given sport may not be used. This includes such items as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, wrestling mats, discuses, etc.

7.6.f. In cases where schools schedule all students into the last period of the school day, the guidelines in §§127-3-7.6.c, 127-3-7.6.d, and 127-3-7.6.e shall apply unless the class is considered a part

of the physical education program and credit is earned. There shall be no teaching of sport specific skills in this case unless those same skills and course of study are taught in all physical education classes at this same time of the academic year.

7.6.g. The county board of education may choose to compensate the supervisor or director of conditioning/recreation programs.

7.7. Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise, or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except as specified in §§127-3-7.2, 127-3-7.2.a, and 127-3-7.3. The county board of education shall be authorized to approve a coach to organize and/or supervise a recreation program for students. However, this type assignment must be recreational in nature, include a variety of activities, and comprise no coaching or instruction of that same sport as the school coaching assignment. In addition to the above, gymnasiums or facilities opened for recreational activities must use the following requirements:

7.7.a. The gymnasium or field is open to all students for participation.

7.7.b. Various activities are available to students and are not limited to one sport or activity on a given day.

7.7.c. Supervisor or director must be approved by the county board of education or governing body.

7.7.d. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and technique in any sport.

7.7.e. Comparable opportunities are provided both sexes.

7.7.f. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.8. The principal is responsible for adherence to these requirements.

#### **§127-3-8. Forfeit and Restitution.**

8.1. A written request for investigation of an eligibility issue in any sport may be filed by a member school principal with the WVSSAC Executive Director. Individual and/or team awards will not be affected if the request is filed more than 42 calendar days past the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport.

8.2. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to competing as an individual, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken by the WVSSAC, the student's performance shall be stricken from the records and the points contributed to the team total deleted. The team standings will be adjusted accordingly, and any awards received shall be returned.

8.3. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to representing the school in team competition or a penalty has been imposed by the WVSSAC, the contest(s) may be forfeited. The team standing in the final standing will be adjusted, and the team awards and the ineligible student's awards may be returned.

8.4. If a team, or student participating in an individual contest, leaves the playing area in protest and fails to complete the contest, the contest is forfeited and the school principal or designee and the violator may be required to appear before the WVSSAC Executive Director to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

8.5. If a coach is ejected from a contest and an assistant coach or assigned school representative is not available to continue as coach, the contest is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

8.6. If a student is deemed ineligible under WVSSAC rules, but participates in interscholastic competition in accordance with the terms of a court order or injunction, and the order or injunction ultimately otherwise adjudicated so that injunctive relief is/was not warranted, any one of the following actions may be taken in the interest of fairness or restitution to the competing schools-:

8.6.a. Require that individual or team performance records achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken; or

8.6.b. Require that team or individual victories be forfeited to opponent(s); or

8.6.c. Require that team or individual awards earned by such individual or team be returned to the Commission.

#### **§127-3-9. Game Officials.**

9.1. All officials utilized in interscholastic games and contests in West Virginia must be registered with the WVSSAC, except in the case of emergency, §127-3-9.4 may be invoked. A game officials' registration plan shall be established by the WVSSAC Board of Directors (Board of Directors).

9.2. Officials for interscholastic contests shall be agreed upon mutually by the competing schools at least two weeks before the scheduled date of contest. Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate at the contest unless all competing consent.

9.3. The host school initiates the selection of game officials. It is highly recommended that the host school contract officials for all interscholastic contests. Contractual agreements are between the school and the official.

9.4. The WVSSAC Executive Director shall be empowered to authorize the use of non-registered officials for athletic contests where registered officials are not available and scheduled athletic contests risk cancellation.

9.5. All officials registered with the WVSSAC are subject to and required to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in these rules and the "West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Officials' Handbook", which is revised and published yearly. WVSSAC registered officials are provided the same opportunity for appeal of any decisions as set forth in the rules.

9.6. The official shall:

9.6.a. Attend a state WVSSAC rules clinic in the sport for which the official is registered. Failure to comply will result in suspension for that year.



9.6.b. Attend four local Officials' Board meetings. Failure to comply will result in suspension for that year.

9.6.c. Take Part I and Part II NFHS Rules Examinations in the sports where specified. Failure to take Part I will result in a five point deduction for the purpose of classification at the end of that sport season. Failure to take Part II Exam will result in suspension the following year.

9.6.d. Abstain from consuming intoxicating beverages on the day of the assigned contest prior to and during the contest, and after, in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.e. Abstain from the use of smokeless or any other forms of tobacco in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.f. Abstain from the use of illegal drugs.

9.6.g. Be fair, impartial, unbiased, professional, and competent in officiating.

9.6.h. Be in and maintain proper physical and mental condition as verified by the physical examination form submitted to the WVSSAC; dress and appearance must be appropriate.

9.6.i. Be at the site of the contest in adequate time to care for necessary pre-contest duties or as specified in the NFHS Rules.

9.6.j. Maintain self-control under all conditions.

9.6.k. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.

9.6.l. Conduct the game so as to enlist the cooperation of students, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.

9.6.m. Comply with any WVSSAC rule, regulation, Constitution, or directive, and particularly those regulations pertaining to filing Special Reports and Official Ratings of Schools.

9.6.n. Honor all existing officiating contracts with member schools unless a valid reason is presented and accepted by the involved school. Accepting a game involving a higher level of competition is not a valid reason to cancel a contract.

9.6.o. Comply with local board rules as set forth in board regulations.

9.7. The WVSSAC Executive Director shall have the power to penalize for violations of these rules. Any official penalized under these rules shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors. The WVSSAC Executive Director shall inform fully a penalized official of appeal rights.

#### **§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.1. Excluding boys and girls basketball, each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the end of the second school month

of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.

10.2. Excluding boys and girls basketball, classification of member high schools shall be determined every four years on the even numbered years and will remain in effect for a four year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment becomes effective next academic year.

10.3. A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in any class above its classification providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to Friday of week 27 after classification has been approved by the Board of Directors. Approval of this option will be for a four year period and will be effective for individual sports sponsored by the school.

10.4. Excluding boys and girls basketball, the Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. The WVSSAC will conduct a survey of the membership prior to any change of structure of any given sport.

10.5. Excluding boys and girls basketball, if a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the classification period, the new member school will be reclassified based on the combined enrollment of 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the consolidating schools.

10.6. Each member high school shall be classified in boys and girls basketball as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on a total score given by the classification model that considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. For an explanation of the classification model, and how scores are assigned, see Appendix 1.

10.7. Classification of member high schools in boys and girls basketball shall be determined in the next regular reclassification year and will remain in effect for a two year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month and qualifies to be moved according to the classification model. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment and the classification model becomes effective next academic year.

10.8. A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in one class above its classification in boys and girls basketball providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to April 1 of a new classification year. Approval of this option will be for a two year period ~~and will be effective for individual sports sponsored by the school.~~

10.9. In boys and girls basketball, the Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAAA-AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. The WVSSAC will conduct a survey of the membership prior to any change of structure of any given sport.

10.10. If a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the two year period, the new member school will be reclassified in boys and girls basketball based on the classification applied to the newly classification model applied to the new consolidated school consolidated school.

10.11. No member school shall, based on the classification, be compelled to play more than one class up from where it would be classified in a four class system based strictly on enrollment.

10.12. The WVSSAC Board of Directors is authorized to grant a waiver to a classification assignment when it determines the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended.

**§127-3-11. Exchange of Eligibility Certificates.**

11.1. Commission approved eligibility certificates are required at the beginning of the season of each sport and prior to the first contest.

11.2. The principal is responsible for the proper completion of the certificate.

11.3. The names of the students on all middle school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, junior varsity and varsity teams shall be submitted on the school's master eligibility.

11.4. Student additions to the team must be certified immediately on an eligibility certificate submitted to the WVSSAC.

11.5. Principals will verify student eligibility using birth certificates to confirm a student's age. Disputed cases shall be reviewed and approved by the WVSSAC Executive Director prior to participation.

11.6. Changes to a student's age, number of semesters of attendance or semester credits on an eligibility certificate must be reported to and approved by the WVSSAC prior to participation.

11.7. Schools that fail to send the required eligibility information to the WVSSAC prior to the first contest will be assessed a fine of \$25.00 payable to the WVSSAC.

**§127-3-12. Legal Opponents.**

12.1. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate against any public, private, or parochial secondary school whose status has not been recognized by that group's governing body.

12.2. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate against schools that have been placed under a specified sanction, including member schools and out-of-state schools.

12.3. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate in any interscholastic contest or practice against non-school teams or involving alumni participants.

**§127-3-13. Contracts.**

13.1. All interscholastic contest contracts shall be prepared in duplicate on forms furnished by the WVSSAC. Contracts should include specific dates, financial guarantee provisions, adequate forfeiture stipulations, and all other items listed on the contract.

13.2. In order for a contract between two schools to be binding, it must be signed by the principal or designee of both schools.

13.3. Contracts between both schools may be canceled in the following situations:

13.3.a. If either principal or designee fails to sign the contract.

13.3.b. If either school is forced to suspend its school schedule.

13.3.c. If one school fails to return the signed contract to the other school within 30 days of receipt.

13.3.d. Upon written mutual consent of the contracting parties.

13.3.e. The Board of Directors may annul a contract when deemed necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in West Virginia, or when provisions of the contract are contrary to Commission rules.

13.4. Contracts executed by the principal are binding on the principal's successor.

13.5. A school will forfeit an athletic contest during regular season or scheduled tournament play if cancellation is caused by teachers, support personnel, or school patrons acting as a striking body. If both participating schools are affected by strike, cancellation shall be considered no contest. Regular season cancellation may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Directors.

#### **§127-3-14. Sunday Contests.**

14.1. WVSSAC member schools shall not engage in any practice, contest, meet, or tournament on Sunday. However, in case of emergency, State Championship finals may be played on Sunday after 1:00 p.m.

14.2. Sunday practice shall be defined as any team, group, or individual meeting to view films, hold shooting practice, or any other activity associated with the sport.

#### **§127-3-15. Sports Rules -- Game Protests.**

15.1. The current edition of official High School Rules published by the NFHS are the official rules used in contests, meets, and tournaments played by WVSSAC schools. The Board of Directors may modify such rules as provided by the NFHS. Any modified rules published in special bulletins or "The Interscholastic" shall apply.

15.2. In the absence of published NFHS rules, the Board of Directors may authorize competition under prevailing rules and regulations as modified for amateur competition.

15.3. Contests ~~or ejections~~ shall not be protested. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not authorized to order contests replayed ~~or ejections reconsidered~~.

#### **§127-3-16. Sanctioning and Travel.**

16.1. A member school shall not enter a contest/competition which requires sanctioning until it is

approved by the WVSSAC.

16.2. All applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the WVSSAC 30 days prior to the event, with the exception of international events.

16.3. Events requiring NFHS approval are:

16.3.a. Co-sponsorship Sanction Requirement: Any interstate event involving two or more schools, which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, a shoe company), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, an approved school, or a state association, shall require sanction of the NFHS office.

16.3.b. Non-bordering State Sanction Requirement: Each state association shall sanction through the NFHS office interstate competition by a member school involving either:

16.3.b.1. More than eight schools, at least one of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or

16.3.b.2. Five or more states, at least one of which does not border the host state.

16.3.c. International Event: Each member state association shall approve and receive NFHS approval for competition by a member school against a school from a foreign country, except for two school and three school competition with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles.

16.3.d. International Event: Games against Canadian or Mexican schools involving travel of greater than 600 miles, or an event involving more than three schools, one or more of which are from Canada or Mexico, requires a request to the NFHS for international sanction and notice to and sanction by the appropriate National Governing Body.

16.4. Bordering state events requiring approval are:

16.4.a. Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate and at least one of the states participating requires sanctioning. (All schools from ~~neighboring~~ bordering states.)

16.4.b. Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

~~16.5. Intrastate events requiring approval are:~~

~~16.5.a. An event with more than four schools participating; or~~

~~16.5.b. Any event where awards are given.~~

~~16.65.~~ The WVSSAC may assess a fine and/or other penalties against the participating school for violations of the sanction provisions.

~~16.76.~~ A member school shall not enter an event that involves travel of more than 600 miles round

trip unless it occurs on days when school is not in session. The WVSSAC must sanction the event.

**§127-3-17. WVSSAC Tournaments.**

17.1. Participation in Commission sponsored and directed sectional, regional and state tournaments exclusively shall be limited to WVSSAC member schools.

17.2. The Board of Directors shall divide the state into sections and regions for the purpose of determining championships in Commission sponsored sports. The Board of Directors shall direct and arrange for tournaments, meets, and contests leading to and including state championships. The WVSSAC will provide member school principals the opportunity to review and comment on the alignment prior to the presentation to the Board of Directors. Principals will sign a form to verify receipt and return the form to the WVSSAC office within ten days from the date of the bulletin.

17.3. The Board of Directors shall have general control over sectional tournaments. The detailed management of these sectional tournaments, however, shall be under the control of the schools assigned to each respective section.

17.4. All net earnings from tournaments conducted under the supervision of the Board of Directors shall be turned over to the Commission unless otherwise specified by the Board of Control. Sectional or regional assessments may be charged to cover the cost of a tournament trophy furnished by the WVSSAC.

17.5. The Board of Directors may approve participation by member middle schools in county, league or conference tournament. Tournament play on the state level for member middle schools is prohibited.

17.6. State tournaments conclude only after all games, matches, or events are completed.

**§127-3-18. Season Regulations.**

18.1. The Commission uses the NFHS standardized calendar to schedule all activities. Each sport season shall have an established beginning and ending date for practice and interscholastic contests based on a standardized calendar.

**§127-3-19. Baseball.**

19.1. Rules: Baseball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

19.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

19.3. Length of Season: The baseball season ends for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

19.4. Maximum Team Contests: A baseball team is permitted to play no more than 32 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

19.5. Scrimmages: Teams may conduct two baseball scrimmages with another high school. (See Glossary.)

19.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

19.7. Student Participation:

19.7.a. A student may not play or practice on a non-school baseball team while a member of the school team.

19.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

19.8. During the sport season, a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events. Awards must comply with §127-3-5. Outside the sport season, students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

19.9. Middle Schools -- The above will apply for middle schools with following adaptations:

19.9.a. Middle school teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

19.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

19.9.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

**§127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls).**

20.1. Rules: Basketball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

20.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice for girls will begin on Monday of Week 19 and Monday of Week 20 for boys. The first contest for girls may be played on Tuesday of Week 22 and Tuesday of Week 23 for boys.

20.3. Length of Season: The boys' and girls' basketball seasons will end for each team at tournament elimination.

20.4. Maximum Team Contests: A varsity or junior varsity basketball team will be permitted to play no more than 22 games in the regular season exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

20.4.a. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one season is ~~110~~ 132 exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

20.4.b. A student can play only ~~five~~ six quarters in one day.

20.4.c. Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one quarter.

20.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

20.5. A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two scrimmage games. (See Glossary.)

20.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

20.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school team while a member of the school team.

20.8. During the sport season a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events Awards must comply with the §127-3-5. Outside the sport season, students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

20.9. Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

20.9.a. Girls may begin practice on Monday of Week 18 and boys on Monday of Week 19. The first contest for girls may be played on Wednesday of week 21 and Wednesday of week 22 for boys.

20.9.b. The girls basketball season will end on Saturday of Week 33 and Saturday of Week 34 for boys.

20.9.c. Tournament play on the state level shall be prohibited.

20.9.d. Boys and girls basketball teams will be permitted to play no more than 20 games. Tournament exception does not apply.

20.9.e. All middle students may play a maximum of 100 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle students may play a maximum of five quarters per day.

20.9.g. A member school sponsoring games involving teams which combine students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades must play those games in quarters of six minutes.

20.9.h. Middle schools are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.i. Scrimmages: Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

**§127-3-21. Cheerleading.**

21.1. Rules: Cheerleading rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

21.2. Organized Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5.

21.3. Length of Season: The high school spirit and competitive season will begin Monday of Week 5. The competitive season will end for each team at their cheer tournament elimination. The high school



spirit season will end on the last day of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament or Boys' State Basketball Tournament.

21.4. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

21.5. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

21.6. Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

21.6.a. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6.

21.6.b. The middle school spirit and competitive cheer season will begin Monday of Week 6. The competitive season will end Saturday of Week 18. The middle school spirit season will end on the last day of the middle school girls' or boys' basketball season.

**§127-3-22. Cross Country (Boys and Girls).**

22.1. Rules: Cross country rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

22.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first meet may be held on Saturday of Week 7.

22.3. Length of Season: The cross country season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

22.4. Maximum Team Contests: A cross country team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of regional and state contests.

22.5. Scrimmages: Schools may conduct two cross country scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

22.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

22.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the §127-3-5.

**§127-3-23. Football.**

23.1. Rules: Football rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

23.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played during Week 8.

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23.2.a. The following table establishes for high school the equipment/contact level, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest, and date season must be completed.

Year	First Date Organized Practice Helmets Only No Contact	First Date Helmet & Shoulder Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	First Date Full Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	First Date Full Pads Full Contact	Earliest Scrimmage or Grid-O- Rama after 4:00 p.m.	First Contest	Date Season Must Be Completed
<del>2021</del>	<del>Aug. 2 &amp; 3</del>	<del>Aug. 4 &amp; 5</del>	<del>Aug. 6</del>	<del>Aug. 7</del>	<del>Aug. 13</del>	<del>Aug. 23</del>	<del>Nov. 6</del>
2022	Aug. 1 and 2	Aug. 3 and 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 12	Aug. 22	Nov. 5
2023	July 31 and Aug. 1	Aug. 2 and 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 11	Aug. 21	Nov. 4
2024	Aug. 5 and 6	Aug. 7 and 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 16	Aug. 26	Nov. 9
2025	Aug. 4 and 5	Aug. 6 and 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 15	Aug. 25	Nov. 8
<u>2026</u>	<u>Aug. 3 and 4</u>	<u>Aug. 5 and 6</u>	<u>Aug. 7</u>	<u>Aug. 8</u>	<u>Aug. 14</u>	<u>Aug. 24</u>	<u>Nov. 7</u>

23.2.b. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

23.2.c. In season football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction are given are not permitted.

23.2.d. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. During the date of pads no live contact, the use of sleds, shields, and blocking dummies is allowed to permit gradual adaptation of the students to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.

23.3. Length of Season: The football season will end for each team at the end of the regular season or by play-off elimination.

23.4. Maximum Team Contests: A football team will be permitted to play no more than 10 games exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.a. The total number of quarters for a student in one season is 50 exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.b. A student may only play four quarters in one day.

23.4.c. Any student who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play. Downs in which the football teams are in a free kick formation, or the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation, as defined in the NFHS Football Rule Book, will not count as a down.

23.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

23.4.e. Interscholastic practice game in which teams representing a member school play against alumni or others is not be allowed.

23.5. A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one preseason scrimmage or two preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary for definitions of Grid-O-Rama and Scrimmage.)

23.6. Special Regulations:

23.6.a. All rules and regulations of these bylaws pertaining to football are also applicable to six-man and eight-man football.

23.6.b. Any member of a freshman team who plays in a varsity contest (scrimmage, Grid-o-Rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team.

23.6.c. A student may not play or practice on a non-school football team while a member of the school team.

23.7. A student may accept awards for WVSSAC sanctioned and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the §127-3-5.

23.8. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class.

23.9. Middle Schools: The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

23.9.a. Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first game played during Week 9.

23.9.b. The following table establishes ~~the first date for organized practice, the first date pads with no live contact, the first date for live contact, for middle school the equipment/contact level, earliest date for a scrimmage, the date for first game contest~~ and the date season must be completed.

<b>Year</b>	<b><del>First Date</del> Organized Practice</b>	<b><del>Pads No</del> Live Contact</b>	<b><del>Contact</del> Allowed Full Equip.</b>	<b><del>Date For</del> Scrimmage</b>	<b><del>Earliest</del> For First Game</b>	<b><del>Date Season</del> Must Be Completed</b>
2021	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 19	Aug. 23	Week 9	Oct. 30
2022	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 22	Week 9	Oct. 29
2023	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 16	Aug. 20	Week 9	Oct. 28
2024	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	Aug. 26	Week 9	Nov. 2
2025	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 21	Sept. 1	Week 9	Nov. 1

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Date Organized Practice Helmets Only. No Contact</u>	<u>First Date Helmet and Shoulder Pads. Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, Etc.)</u>	<u>Full Pads. Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, Etc.)</u>	<u>Full Pads Full Contact</u>	<u>Earliest Scrimmage</u>	<u>First Contest</u>	<u>Date Season Must be Completed</u>
<u>2022</u>	<u>Aug. 8, 9, and 10</u>	<u>Aug. 11, 12, and 13</u>	<u>Aug. 15 and 16</u>	<u>Aug. 17, 18, 19, and 20</u>	<u>Aug. 22</u>	<u>Aug. 29</u>	<u>Oct. 29</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>Aug. 7, 8, and 9</u>	<u>Aug. 10, 11, and 12</u>	<u>Aug. 14 and 15</u>	<u>Aug. 16, 17, 18, and 19</u>	<u>Aug. 21</u>	<u>Aug. 28</u>	<u>Oct. 28</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>Aug 12, 13, and 14</u>	<u>Aug. 15, 16, and 17</u>	<u>Aug. 19 and 20</u>	<u>Aug. 21, 22, 23, and 24</u>	<u>Aug. 26</u>	<u>Sept. 2</u>	<u>Nov. 2</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>Aug. 11, 12, and 13</u>	<u>Aug. 14, 15, and 16</u>	<u>Aug. 18 and 19</u>	<u>Aug. 20, 21, 22, and 23</u>	<u>Aug. 25</u>	<u>Sept. 1</u>	<u>Nov. 1</u>
<u>2026</u>	<u>Aug. 10, 11 and 12</u>	<u>Aug. 13, 14, and 15</u>	<u>Aug. 17 and 18</u>	<u>Aug. 19, 20, 21, and 22</u>	<u>Aug. 24</u>	<u>Aug. 31</u>	<u>Oct. 31</u>

23.9.c. The football season will end on Saturday of Week 17.

23.9.d. Not more than eight interscholastic football games shall be played, excepting one league playoff game. There shall be a nine game limit, even if league playoff games are used, and the extra game is limited to two teams. Leagues choosing to have the extra playoff game may participate in a two quarter Grid-O-Rama in place of a scrimmage game, if agreed to before the start of the season.

23.9.e. The total number of quarters for a middle school student in one season is 40, exclusive of the playoff game in §127-3-23.4.

23.9.f. A middle school football team is allowed one preseason scrimmage under the following conditions:

23.9.f.1. Scrimmage will not be played under game conditions.

23.9.f.2. Scrimmage must be played prior to first game of regular season.

23.9.f.3. Admission may be charged.

23.9.f.4. Registered officials may be used.

23.9.g. Middle school football teams may play overtime periods in regular season games. ~~In season ending championship games, a tie breaking procedure shall be established and used if at the end of two overtime periods, the score remains tied. A maximum of two o~~ Overtime periods are permitted will be played until a winner is determined in accordance with the NFHS Football Rules "20 yard line overtime procedure."

23.9.h. Middle school game ball: The football used involving only students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and below shall be the youth football. Modification of the rule is listed in the NFHS Rule Book, Rule 1-3-1.

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23.9.i. Length of Quarters: For teams composed of students in any combination of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, the length of quarters shall be eight minutes.

23.9.j. A 9<sup>th</sup> grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for high school.

#### **§127-3-24. Golf (Boys and Girls).**

24.1. Rules: Golf rules published by the United States Golf Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by WVSSAC modifications.

24.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on any day after the first day of the season.

24.3. Length of Season: The golf season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

24.4. Maximum Team Contests: A high school golf team will be permitted to play no more than 18 varsity matches, 18 JV matches, and 18 girls' JV matches. A male or female participant may play no more than a total of 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournament contests between the varsity, JV, and girls' JV matches. Girls who participate on school teams who do not have a minimum of three female participants may participate as individuals in girls' JV matches as long as the total number of matches they play between varsity, JV, and girls' JV does not exceed 18. Each interscholastic contest counts as one, whether it is nine or 18 holes, and regardless of number of opponents.

24.5. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

24.6. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

24.7. Middle School Golf: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

24.7.a. Middle school teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.

24.7.b. There shall be one season for golf in middle school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than ten weeks.

#### **§127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls).**

25.1. Rules: Soccer rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

25.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on ~~Friday~~ Wednesday of Week 7.

25.3. Length of Season: The soccer season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

25.4. Maximum Team Contests: A soccer team will be permitted to play no more than 20 matches

exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.a. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 50, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.b. A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day. Play in any part of a half counts as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half.

25.5. A high school soccer team is permitted to participate in a soccer-o-rama and one preseason scrimmage or two preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary.)

25.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

25.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school soccer team while a member of the school team.

25.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

25.9. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

25.9.a. Middle school teams may play 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

25.9.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Monday of Week 9.

25.9.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

25.9.d. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 28.

25.9.e. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

#### **§127-3-26. Softball.**

26.1. Rules: Softball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

26.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

26.3. Length of Season: The softball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

26.4. Maximum Team Contests: A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 contests

exclusive of sectional, regional and state contests.

26.5. Scrimmages: Two softball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

26.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

26.7. Student Participation:

26.7.a. A student may not play or practice on a non-school softball team while a member of the school team.

26.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

26.8. During the sport season, a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events. These awards must be compliant with §127-3-5. Outside the sport season students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

26.9. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

26.9.a. Middle school teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

26.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

**§127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls).**

27.1. Rules: Swimming rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

27.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 17 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 19.

27.3. Length of Season: The swimming season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

27.4. Maximum Team Contests: A swimming team will be permitted 16 contests exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

27.5. Scrimmages: Two swimming scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

27.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day

of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

27.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

27.8. The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

27.8.a. Middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets.

27.8.b. There shall be one season for middle school swimming, either winter or spring. However, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

27.8.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 31.

27.8.d. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

**§127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls).**

28.1. Rules: Tennis rules published by the United States Tennis Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

28.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

28.3. Length of Season: The tennis season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

28.4. Maximum Team Contests: A tennis team will be permitted 22 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

28.4.a. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one match. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two matches.

28.5. Scrimmages: Two tennis scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

28.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

28.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events or non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

28.8. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

28.8.a. Middle school teams may play 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

28.8.b. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)



28.8.c. There shall be one season for tennis in middle school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

**§127-3-29. Track and Field (Boys and Girls).**

29.1. Rules: Track and Field rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

29.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 37.

29.3. Length of Season: The track and field season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

29.4. Maximum Team Contests: A track and field team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

29.5. Participation Limitations: Maximum of four events per participant per meet.

29.6. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

29.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

29.8. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

29.9. Middle Schools -- The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

29.9.a. Middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets and only two meets per week.

29.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Thursday of Week 46.

29.9.c. Participation limitation: Middle school students, regardless of grade levels (6, 7, or 8), may compete in a maximum of four events, of which only three may be running events, including relays.

**§127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls).**

30.1. Rules: Volleyball rules published by NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

30.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 8.

30.3. Length of Season: The volleyball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

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30.4. Maximum Team Contest: A volleyball team will be permitted no more than 22 playing dates exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

30.4.a. Dual, triangular, and quadrangular matches count as one playing date. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two playing dates.

30.5. In dual competition, a student may participate in a maximum of four games against the same opponent if a match is two of three games and six games if the varsity match is three of five games.

30.6. Scrimmages: Two volleyball scrimmages with another high school or one scrimmage and one preview may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

30.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

30.8. A student may not play or practice on a non-school volleyball team while a member of the school team.

30.9. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

30.10. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

30.10.a. Middle school teams will be permitted 18 playing dates.

30.10.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week ~~10~~ 9.

30.10.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

30.10.d. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

#### **§127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys).**

31.1. Rules: Wrestling rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

31.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 20 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.3. Length of Season: The wrestling season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

31.4. Maximum Team Contest: A wrestling team will be permitted to have 18 weigh-ins exclusive of regional and state tournaments.

31.4.a. Triangular and quadrangular weigh-ins count as one weigh-in. Weigh-ins in which five or

more schools participate count as two weigh-ins. A dual meet, in which only two teams compete, shall only count as one-half of a weigh-in point.

31.5. Scrimmages: Two wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

31.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

31.7. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

31.8. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

31.8.a. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 19 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.8.b. Middle school teams may have 16 weigh-ins excluding any conference tournament.

31.8.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.d. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ACADEMIC YEAR** - the period of time occurring between the first day of July and ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, during which a student must meet the educational requirements equivalent to an instructional term as provided in W. Va. Code §18-8-1.

**ALL-STAR GAME** - a contest where all contestants on each team are students selected from four or more school teams. No more than three students from any one school may participate on the same team.

**COACH** - county board/governing body contracted or approved facilitator of any secondary school athletic team.

**COMMISSION/WVSSAC** - West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

**CONTEST or GAME** – one or more of the following conditions are present: previous agreement, advertisement, score and/or time kept, spectators present, regulation or modified rules used, coverage appearing in local media, sufficient number of students to form teams, admission charged, and/or contest officiated by registered officials.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** - nonacademic activities such as interscholastic athletics, student government, class officers, marching band that is not a part of the curricular band, and clubs which are not closely related to identifiable programs/areas of study.

**FACULTY MEMBER** - one who has a full-time teacher permit as defined by W. Va. 126CSR136, WVBE Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classification.

**FEEDER SCHOOL** - the school(s) designated by the county board of education/governing body as the school of attendance prior to entrance into the high school.

**GRID-O-RAMA/SOCCER-O-RAMA** – must adhere to rules of Preview and Scrimmage (see definitions).

**MEMBER SCHOOL** - a school that is a member of the WVSSAC.

**PREVIEW** - must be three or more teams; teams are only allowed to play the equivalent of one contest; all conditions of a scrimmage apply.

**PRINCIPAL** - the individual charged with supervision, management, and control of a secondary school.

**SCRIMMAGE** - after seven days of practice; prior to the first contest; without keeping score in a book or on a score board; not under game conditions (examples include basketball and soccer - quarters; three outs-baseball and softball); admission may be charged; free substitution; time-outs permitted; if officials are used, they must be West Virginia registered officials.

**SEMESTER** - a block of instructional time that is equivalent to at least one-half of the academic year. (See W. Va. 126CSR42, WVBE Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs.)

**SECONDARY SCHOOL** - a high school or middle school as registered with the WVDE.

**STUDENT** - a male or female participant in interscholastic athletics or band activities.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - a person in a public school who has met the requirements as specified by the WVBE and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education, or a person who has met the requirements of the governing body of a private/parochial school.

**VARSITY** - primary representative team of a high school.

## APPENDIX 1

This considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. These factors are given individual scores, which are then given a weighted aggregate total. All individual scores (scores for enrollment, location and economics) are normalized using maximum-minimum normalization using feature scaling, wherein their values fall between 0-1. Individual scores are calculated in the following ways:

- The **enrollment score** takes enrollment data and normalizes it on a scale from 0-1
- The **location score** is made up of two equally weighted pieces.
  - Part 1 is determined by taking the school county's population divided by the driving distance between the school and the county seat, that value is then normalized between 0-1.
  - Part 2 is calculated by finding the distance from the school to the closest city with a population of 10,000 or more, then normalized between 0-1. Each part is then multiplied by half of the location score weight.
- The **economic score** is determined by first calculating a county score where the z-score of the county's median household income is added to the z-score of the county's poverty rate and the sum is normalized between 0-1.
  - For all schools located within single high school counties, the county economic score serves as the school economic score.
  - For all schools located within multi-high school counties, Direct Certified numbers on students eligible for free or reduced lunch are used to scale the county economic score. The scaling is accomplished by comparing the Direct Certified numbers of each individual school with the county average.

Weights are applied to each score that are determined based on qualitative assessment by the WVSSAC Competition Balance Committee. All county data (population, median household income, and poverty rate) are from the most recent US Census American Community Survey's Five Year Estimates and the distances are determined using Google Maps.

**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)  
Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests**

**COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: June 13, 2022**

**COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

**NOTICE:** *Comments, as submitted, shall be filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office and open for public inspection and copying for a period of not less than five years.*

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Board Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Support Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Principal                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislator       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Office Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
§127-3-4.1. All-Star Participation.
§127-3-5.4. Awards.
§127-3-6.4.b. Coaches.
§127-3-6.4.c. Coaches.
§127-3-7.2. Out-of-Season Coaching.
§127-3-10.8. Classification.
§127-3-10.12. Classification.
§127-3-15.3. Sport Rules -- Game Protests.
§127-3-16.4.a. Sanctioning and Travel.

§127-3-16.5. Sanctioning and Travel.
§127-3-19.6. Baseball.
§127-3-20.4.a. Basketball (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-20.4.b. Basketball (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-20.6. Basketball (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-22.6. Cross Country (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-23.2.a. Football.
§127-3-23.2.b. Football.
§127-3-23.9.b. Football.
§127-3-23.9.g. Football.
§127-3-25.2. Soccer (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-25.6. Soccer (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-26.6. Softball.
§127-3-27.6. Swimming (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-28.6. Tennis (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-29.7. Track and Field (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-30.7. Volleyball (Girls).
§127-3-30.10.b. Volleyball (Girls).



<b>§127-3-31.6. Wrestling (Boys).</b>
<b>Glossary of Terms – Academic Year</b>

Please direct all comments to:  
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